

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 03515 070410Z

15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2518

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 3515

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, SOCI, NP

SUBJ: STRIKE AGREEMENT ANNULLED BY GOVERNMENT;
UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES SHIFTED

REF: KATHMANDU 3504 AND PREVIOUS

1. LOCAL NEWSPAPERS REPORTED AUGUST 6 THAT TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY HAS ANNULLED THE AGREEMENT MADE TO END THE THREE-MONTH LONG STUDENT STRIKE. FAILURE OF STUDENTS TO RESUME CLASSES PROMPTLY FOLLOWING THE JULY 26 SETTLEMENT AND CONTINUING OUTBREAKS OF VIOLENCE AMONG ACTIVIST STUDENTS AND AGAINST UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES WERE GIVEN AS THE PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR THE DECISION. STUDENTS ENGAGING IN "PARTY POLITICS" AND THE GENERAL BREAKDOWN OF DISCIPLINE ON THE CAMPUSES WERE ALSO CITED. IN RELATED MOVES, UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES ANNOUNCED: THE TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATORS WITHIN THE SEVEN MAIN CAMPUSES IN THE KATHMANDU VALLEY; THE OPENING OF NEW CAMPUSES AT POKHARA, SUKHET, ITHRAI AND LAMJUNG; AND THE EXPANSION OF CERTAIN UNIVERSITY SERVICES FOR STUDENTS SERVING IN REMOTE AREAS, E.G., OPENING OF BRANCH LIBRARIES AND ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EMERGENCY FUND.

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2. COMMENT: IT APPEARS NOW THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS DISCARDED

THE STRATEGY OF ACCOMMODATION AND IS MOVING DECISIVELY TO
REASSERT FIRM CONTROL OVER ITS EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.
THE REASONS CITED BY THE AUTHORITIES FOR THEIR ACTION
REFLECT THE GOVERNMENT'S RECOGNITION OF THE NEGATIVE LONG-
TERM EFFECTS OF THE CURRENT DISRUPTIONS AS WELL AS AN
ASSUMPTION THAT A MAJORITY OF THE STUDENTS WOULD WELCOME A
RETURN TO NORMALCY. TIME WILL TELL WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT
ASSESSMENT IS CORRECT AND THE PROGRAMS FOR SOFTENING THE
IMPACT OF ITS ACTION EFFECTIVE. CARGO

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